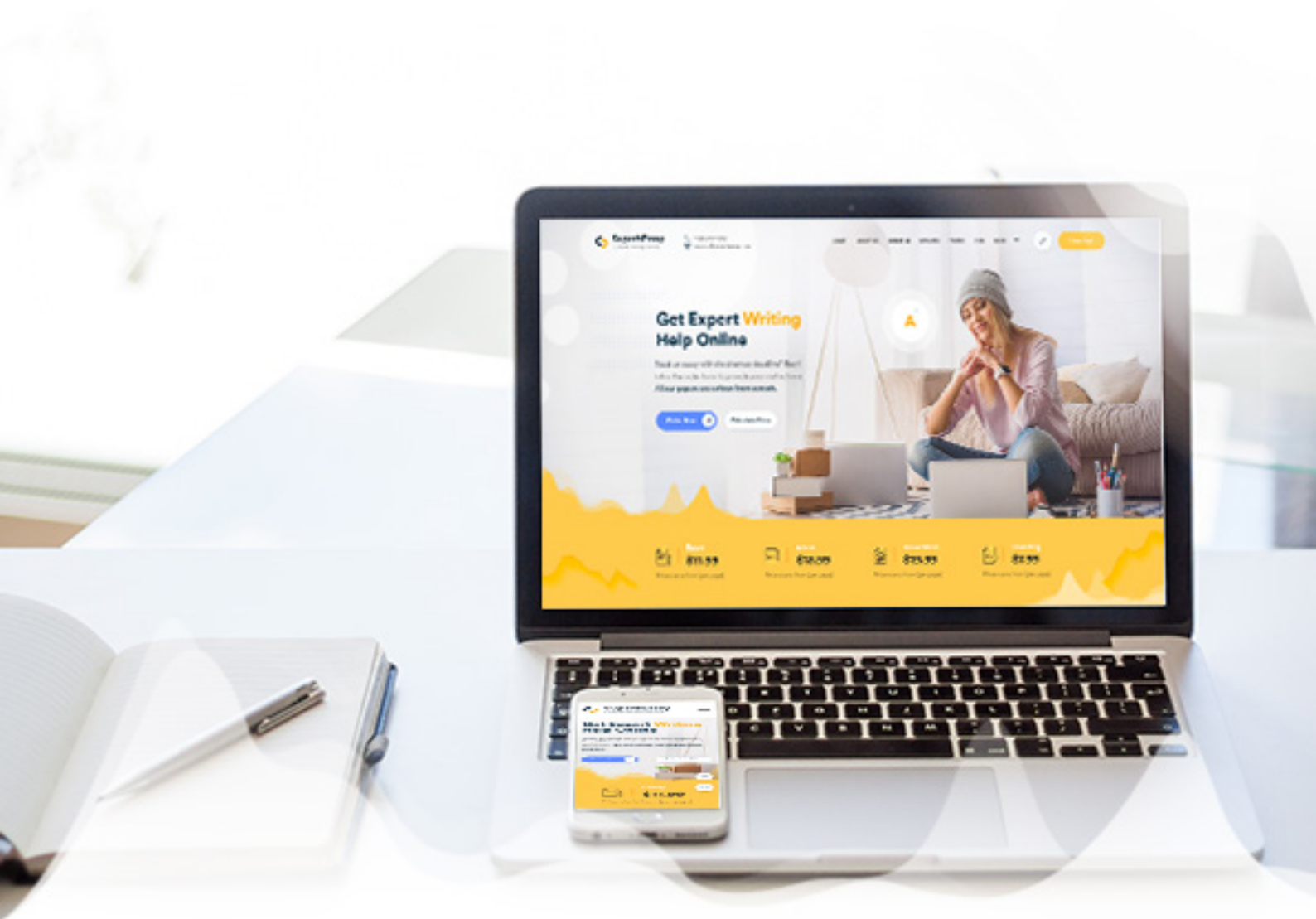


Leadership – Some Thoughts and Ideas

Author's Name



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Find the Leader in Yourself

You think you will never become a leader and leadership is not for you – it is not true. You think, leaders are only those, who hold senior positions or those, who are well known and popular –wrong again. One can assume that leaders have unique power that ordinary people do not have. It is true, but only partly, as many from ordinary people can become leaders. Usually we even do not know our potential.

May be you are already a leader and just do not know about that. Do people ask for your advices and follow them? Do you generate ideas for your group of friends? If so, you are a leader, a leader in your own environment. Leaders are self made, persuades George Ambler. I am convinced, leadership is something we can learn to do, but, on the other hand, not everyone can master this “science”. It is like history or mathematics – everyone learns that at school but only those who have certain ability or even a gift can become the specialist in the field. Find out about your abilities and pass some tests or just make a try to become a leader.

The Ideal Leader

In order to highlight the meaning of the words “leader” and “idol”, it will be good to consult a dictionary. Leader is a person, who leads a group of people, especially a head of a country, an organization, etc. (Leadership, n.d.). Idol is a

person or thing that is loved and admired very much (Idol, n.d.). These meanings differ a lot, but joining them together will give the definition of the “ideal leader”.

Some people may choose a priest to be their leader and others choose a gangster. Every person has a unique life style, goals and principles. If they match with the person’s vision of a leader, he or she will follow the leader. Moreover, such leader will be an ideal for such a person.

Sometimes people get blind idealizing their leader. This is that what a good leader must prevent. The followers must think before doing something, and not blindly fulfill the tasks. The responsibility always lays on a leader, and he must observe the line, which must not be crossed.

Positive Thinking as Life Credo

Any leader is the person that people want to follow for many reasons. One of the reasons is a positive emotional state associated with a leader. When one thinks about the leader, nobody imagines a frustrated, irritated or angry person. Mostly, we imagine leaders as cheerful, peaceful, and confident people. Positive attitude and energy of a leader are attractive for his followers (Eikenberry).

Positive thinking and positive attitude to life are essential for everyone, and not only for the leaders. When looking at the mirror in the morning, smile to your own reflection. During the day, do something pleasant for yourself: buy a candy or help an old lady to cross the road; just do anything that causes positive emotions. Be optimistic. Life is great, repeat it to yourself. There is no doubt such an approach will help overcome any hardships.

Interconnection of the Trust and Responsibility in the Relations between Leaders and their Followers

Responsibility and leadership always go in hand, what is reasonable. A leader must realize that people follow him and he is responsible for them in all senses: psychological, material, etc. For sure, responsibility must be a number one among qualities of a leader. There are many reasons for this. The first one is that any decision or action of a leader influences his followers. Therefore, a leader must think twice before making a decision.

Another argument is that on the way to the main goal a leader and his followers become one whole, having some obligations and requirements to each other. In such a situation, responsibility generates mutual trust between the followers and the leader. Trust of the followers does not come from anywhere, but it must be gained. Their trust depends on many things: how the decision-making process is implemented; how effective actions are and how followers are treated, etc. Trust of the leader is another thing since it must not be gained or developed but be a start point in the chain to success. Without the trust of his followers, a leader cannot rely on them and so goals cannot be reached (Gibson). Trust must not be betrayed as all other responsibilities base on it.

Role of Oratory in Leadership

Any leader must be a good speaker. A good leader articulates well and clearly states the ideas. Oratory helps in motivating and persuading followers. In

addition, oratory is one of the main clues to the success of any leader.

A good speech is a harmonic unity of the content and delivery technique. According to Chakravarthy, “successful delivery technique includes: varying pitch of voice, using the right word quickly, maintaining eye contact with audience, gesturing freely, looking and feeling relaxed, using facial expressions”. Speeches become powerful and effective, when attention of the speaker is also paid to nonverbal communication, intonations, and pauses. In conjunction of all upper mentioned, every leader develops own unique style of making speeches, which opens his talents.

What Leadership is about?

Any person has a natural need to be a part of something: member of the family, a group by interests, or a team at work. The only difference is in the role played by the person in any group. Therefore, society consists of leaders and followers.

I think, any leader is not unique in his field but is unique in his style and his own charisma. On the other hand, nobody will follow a leader, who has charisma but has no vision of the goal how to get there. Conversely, if we are sure that a leader can get us to desirable destination, his charisma will not matter.

However, there can be permanent and spontaneous leaders. A person may permanently lead a group of people in any field. On the other hand, a person may become a leader in some spontaneous situation – make a heroic deed or an occasional influence.

Some people may be leaders in one place but followers in another. This may

have many reasons. Liz McKechnie (n.d.), for example, says that she does not even want to be a leader at home as wants to have a rest from the leadership at work; and, in addition, refuses to lead her children for them to find their own way in life.

The leadership has many facets, and every case is unique.

The Leaders of the Future

Every historical epoch had own leaders, i.e., people, who made significant changes and had enormous influence in the society. There were leaders long before the first countries appeared. Therefore, leadership is not something new for a society. Certainly, the ideas, methods and techniques used by the leaders have been changing with centuries. However, the role of every leader in the society has always been unique and important.

We learn history at school and know all main leaders for every epoch. We analyze their deeds, judge them from contemporary or historical point of view, but we never think about the leaders of the future. The more population develops, the more demanding it becomes upon the leaders. Dan McCarthy mentions several skills that are essential for the leaders of the future. Among them are technological mastery, financial acumen, and resiliency. It is not possible to make a concrete prediction, but it is obvious that leaders of the future are expected to be skillful and have a good knowledge in various fields.

The Quotes about Leadership

It has already become a tradition that people collect the quotes of their leaders. Quotes are like a shorten vision of something. With their help, we can reveal opinions about many issues, including leadership, as well. People pay much attention to quotes. There are printed collections of quotes for every occasion in life. One neat sentence may inspire, one phrase can become somebody's life credo, or a company's slogan. Quotes are important and can be considered as part of the human knowledge that accumulated throughout centuries.

There can be found many quotes about leadership. Kevin Kruse collected one hundred of them. My favorite quote is of Peter Drucker, "Effective leadership is not about making speeches or being liked; leadership is defined by results not attributes" (Kruse).

Desire to Lead is a Desire to Serve

Leadership is not for increasing someone's power, but rather serving to other people. This concept lays the basis of an idea about the servant leadership, which becomes more and more popular nowadays. There are several fundamental differences between the servant leadership and leadership itself. They lay in hierarchical style, attitude to staff, supervisory approach, and some other points (Covey, n.d.). The servant leadership promotes trust and collaboration within the group or organization, as well as the ethical use of power.

Growth of every individual in the organization, personal involvement and

increased teamwork are the tasks of the servant leadership style. Such concept has a great potential to make a positive influence on a society. Serving others must not be taken as a burden but as a noble pastime.

Leadership vs. Management

The difference between management and leadership is not obvious for many people but is important to be realized. The final aim and methods used in work of a leader and manager differ. On the other hand, a person may combine both positions.

Leadership is mostly about setting a new direction or vision for a group, and management is concerned with the already established goals, principles and values, which must be controlled and directed. The other difference is that a leader has his own followers, whose trust must be gained whereas manager has subordinates, who must obey. Power of the leader is in his personal charisma and manager's power is in his authority ("Leadership vs. Management", n.d.). This list can be continued, but the main point which must be realized is that these two terms have different meanings.